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## PRESS RELEASE

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May 17, 2013

### **OakTAC Announces a Group Exercise in Small Squad Tactics – Crowd Control**

On Wednesday, May 22, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. the Oakland County Law Enforcement Tactical Response Coordinating Group (OakTAC) along with Sterling Heights Police Department and Western Wayne County Mobile Field Force will be conducting a joint training exercise at the CREST Facility on the campus of Oakland Community College, Auburn Hills, MI in small squad tactics and crowd control. This exercise will highlight some of the newest equipment obtained in conjunction with two successful federal grant applications submitted by this recently formed work group.

**Members of the media are invited to observe this training exercise.**

There will be two training sessions, one in the morning and one at 1:00 p.m. **The OakTAC group is making the 1:00 p.m. training exercise open to the media.**

Questions on the history of the group or Wednesday's exercises can be directed to:

Undersheriff Michael McCabe, Oakland County Sherriff Office: 248-858-0146  
Gary Mayer, Chief of Police, Troy Police Department: 248-524-3424

**Media representatives interested in observing the exercise are asked to plan on being on-site by 12:30 p.m.**

The Crest training facility is located near I-75 and M-59 at 2900 Featherstone Road, Auburn Hills, MI 48326-2845, on the Campus of Oakland Community College.

The OakTAC group is composed of members from the following Oakland County law enforcement agencies:

**Oakland County Sheriff Office, Troy Police Department, Auburn Hills Police Department, Farmington Hills Police Department, Southfield Police Department, Novi Police Department, Bloomfield Hills Department of Public Safety, West Bloomfield Police Department, Beverly Hills Department of Public Safety, Ferndale Police Department, Royal Oak Police Department, City of Farmington Public Safety Department, City of Milford Police Department, Oak**

**Park Department of Public Safety, Oakland Community College Department of Public Safety, and Waterford Township Police Department.**

**The OakTAC group of jurisdictions are increasing and more will join as the approval process is completed.**

The history of this group dates back to 2009 when Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard hosted a meeting that ultimately generated discussion over the need for a more regional response to large scale incidents. From that initial discussion, the Oakland County Law Enforcement –Tactical Response Coordinating Group was established. The purpose of this group is to provide coordination of resources and training, and ultimately position Oakland County to more effectively and efficiently respond in the event of a major incident requiring mutual aid.

With assistance provided by the Michigan State Police, OakTAC implemented a Small Squad Tactics train the trainer program at the Michigan State Fair Grounds in May of 2009. Participating Oakland County agencies sent representatives to be trained by MSP as certified instructors in small squad tactics. The training progressed throughout the summer of 2009 with OakTAC instructors eventually extending this training to almost 700 law enforcement personnel from Oakland County.

In December, 2009 OakTAC applied for a Federal Homeland Security Grant for personal protective equipment to outfit 100 officers responding to civil unrest incidents and two trailers to house and quickly deploy that equipment. OakTAC was awarded the grant in 2010. The purchasing process was initiated, as were discussions on a future large scale training exercise. In addition, work was begun on the mutual aid agreement that would be required among the participating agencies.

In 2011 OakTAC applied for another Federal Homeland Security Grant, this time seeking funding to purchase crowd control barricades, two trailers to house that equipment, and funding to cover personnel costs associated with a large scale training exercise that would be held to test and utilize the equipment purchased with the two grants. That grant was approved in late 2011.

In early 2012 the Inter-local Service Agreements were signed by the participating agencies, and Wednesday's joint training exercise was planned.

This project represents the culmination of a coordinated work effort by many members of the participating agencies. As a result of these efforts, Oakland County Law Enforcement has received significant training and equipment to respond to large scale incidents. This Wednesday's group exercise will offer representatives from the several agencies involved in this effort the opportunity to train with the newly obtained equipment, and do so utilizing personnel from each organization. Students from Oakland Community College, many from the Criminal Justice Program, will participate as actors in an effort to make the training as realistic as possible. Command and control, joint tactical deployment of personnel, and the coordination of personnel from different agencies are among the challenges this training will test.